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COMMENTS ON THE REVISED APPLICATION FOR A RULING ON THE STEM OF THE FAMILY—GROUP NAME BASED ON THE TYPE—GENUS *PETROMYZON* LINNAEUS, 1758.

Z.N.(S.) 2045

(See vol. 32: 154-155)

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In the revised application noted above, Drs. Vladikov and Gruchy have requested, *inter alia*, that the International Commission ascribe the designation of the type-species of *Petromyzon* Linnaeus, 1758, to Jordan (1917).

However, a much earlier designation of the type-species of *Petromyzon* is that by Jordan & Copeland (1877: 161): "*Petromyzon* Linnaeus, 1766. Type: *P. marinus* L." This type-designation is to be accepted as valid for *Petromyzon* Linnaeus, 1758, despite the reference to 1766 rather than 1758 (Article 67(g)).

Drs. Vladikov and Gruchy have requested also that the Commission recognize the family-group name as dating from *Petromyzides* Risso, 1826.

But Risso's name for this family was not published as a scientific name, it was published as a French vernacular: "Les *Pétromyzides*". As such, it is not an available name unless "it has been generally accepted by zoologists interested in the group concerned as *dating from its first publication in vernacular form*" (Article 11 (e) (iii); emphasis added). Drs. Vladikov and Gruchy have failed to demonstrate that this family-group name has been generally accepted as dating from Risso (1826). On the contrary, we find that this family-group name has not been generally accepted as dating from Risso (1826). *Pétromyzides* Risso (1826: 99, 113) is therefore not an available name.

The earliest available name for this family that we have found is that of Bonaparte (1832: 165, 189): "Famiglia 36. *Petromyzonidae*".

Dr. Gruchy (*Bull. zool. Nomencl.* vol. 32: 20) states that, in his opinion, usage favours the stem *Petromyzon-*. He cites only 5 publications that use the stem *Petromyzont-*. However, our brief search reveals 53 publications (exclusive of those cited by Dr. Gruchy) that, during the past 50 years, have used the stem *Petromyzont-*.

REFERENCE

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- (2) By C. Richard Robins (*Chairman, Committee on Names of Fishes, American Fisheries Society and American Society of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists; Maytag Professor of Ichthyology, School of Marine and Atmospheric Science, University of Miami.*)

In his comments on the petition concerning the stem of the family-group name for the lampreys, Carl L. Hubbs (*Bull. zool. Nomencl.*, vol. 32: 18-19) stated that the Committee on Names of Fishes in the 1960 and 1970 editions of its list "without explanation, named